CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

accessing a pre-boot driver at a computer system during operating system runtime of the computer system;

depositing the pre-boot driver in a repository available to firmware of the computer system;

finding the pre-boot driver at the repository by the firmware during a subsequent pre-boot phase of the computer system; and

executing the pre-boot driver during the subsequent pre-boot phase.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein executing the pre-boot driver includes launching a pre-boot driver interpreter to execute the pre-boot driver.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the repository comprises a non-volatile storage device.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the repository comprises a memory device of the computer system.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising setting a pointer to indicate to the firmware that the pre-boot driver is at the repository.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the pointer comprises a data structure compatible with firmware that operates in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the pointer comprises a variable compatible with firmware that operates in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing the pre-boot driver comprises downloading the pre-boot driver from a network communicatively coupled to the computer system.

9. An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-readable medium including a plurality of instructions which when executed perform operations comprising:

checking a pointer by firmware during a pre-boot phase of the computer system, the pointer having been updated by an operating system of the computer system;

finding a pre-boot driver indicated by the pointer at a repository available to the firmware and the operating system; and

executing the pre-boot driver during the pre-boot phase.

10. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein the repository comprises a non-volatile storage device.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein the pointer comprises a variable compatible with firmware that operates in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein the pre-boot driver comprises Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) Byte Code.

13. An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-readable medium including a plurality of instructions which when executed perform operations comprising:

receiving a pre-boot driver at a computer system during operating system runtime of an operating system of the computer system;

depositing the pre-boot driver in a repository available to the operating system and firmware of the computer system; and

setting a pointer to indicate to the firmware at a pre-boot phase of the computer system that the pre-boot driver is at the repository.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the repository comprises a non-volatile storage device.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the pointer comprises a variable compatible with firmware that operates in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the pre-boot driver comprises Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) Byte Code.

17. A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

at least one storage device operatively coupled to the processor, the at least one storage device including instructions which when executed by the processor perform operations comprising:

receiving a pre-boot driver at a computer system during operating system runtime of an operating system of the computer system;

depositing the pre-boot driver in a repository available to the operating system and firmware of the computer system;

setting a pointer to indicate to the firmware that the pre-boot driver is at the repository;

resetting the computer system;

finding the pre-boot driver at the repository by the firmware during a pre-boot phase of the computer system using the pointer; and

executing the pre-boot driver during the pre-boot phase.

18. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the at least one storage device comprises a flash device including firmware instructions and a hard disk including operating system instructions.

19. The computer system of claim 18 wherein the firmware instructions to operate in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

20. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the pre-boot driver comprises Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) Byte Code.

21. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the repository comprises a non-volatile storage device.

22. The computer system of claim 17 wherein the pointer comprises a variable compatible with firmware that operates in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.